THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulations) Act, 1957, the State Government with prior approval of the Central Government, grant iron-ore mines to an Indian national or a company as defined in sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, as amended from time to time, allows captive mining of coal by private Indian companies for use in power generation, iron and steel manufacture and cement production.

(b) and (c) Iron-ore produced can be sold in the open market. As per available information, coal produced from a captive block if rendered surplus or in excess of the requirement due to any contingency or force majeure situation is allowed to be sold to another approved and used with prior approval of the Central Government.

(d) and (e) State Government of Jharkhand and Orissa have sought to give preference to such applications for mining leases who are willing to set up and use industry within the boundary of the State and this issue is under consideration of the Government.

**Grants given by Maulana Azad Education Foundation**

4196. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications received by the Maulana Azad Education Foundation for grants etc. during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the applications accepted and rejected during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the ground of rejection in each case; and

(d) the oldest case pending as on date alongwith the reasons for pendency and the earliest case cleared alongwith the ground for undue promptness?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTUALY): (a) Details are as under:

| Financial Year | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of applications received | 159 | 158 | 169 | 372 | 203 |

(b) Details are as under:

| Financial Year | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (i) No. of applications accepted/sanctioned | 50 | 46 | 102 | 44 | 52 |
| (ii) No. of applications rejected | 26 | 39 | 33 | 26 | 8 |

(c) Applications were rejected as they were not fulfilling certain eligibility criteria laid down by the Foundation.

(d) The oldest case pending is of April, 2002, the proposal being incomplete, and the earliest case cleared was of June, 2006.

**Announcement of Maulana Azad merit-cum-means scholarships**

4197. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided the 20,000 Maulana Azad merit-cum-means scholarships as announced by the Finance Minister to the minorities during the last Budget; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A scheme for 20,000 scholarships called the merit-cum-means based scholarship to students belonging to minority communities has been formulated and a provision of Rs. 54.00 crore has been made for it this year.